

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 01338 181551Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----181617Z 063818 /50

O R 181528Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4595  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1338

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR, UR  
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF PRESS SURFACING OF SOVIET COMPLAINT  
ABOUT FLAG TOURS

1. WE ARE NOW PERSUADED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE  
OF THE SOVIET CHALLENGE TO OUR FLAG TOURS HAS SPREAD EXTEN-  
SIVELY IN BERLIN, PERHAPS BY OSMOSIS. OUR ORIGINAL HOPES  
TO KEEP THE KNOWLEDGE FORMALLY CONFINED TO A COUPLE OF  
OFFICIALS IN BERLIN HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED, AS IT IS NOW  
APPARENT THAT SEVERAL JUNIOR SENAT FUNCTIONARIES KNOW  
ABOUT IT. THE FRENCH TELL US THAT THE RESIDENT BELGIAN  
MILITARY ATTACHE HAD TOLD FRENCH OFFICER FRIENDS THAT HE  
HAD HEARD THAT THE SOVIETS IN WASHINGTON HAD DEMANDED A  
STOP TO THE PATROLS " A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO." HE ASKED  
FOR VERIFICATION, BUT WAS GIVEN NONE. AND YESTERDAY  
THE JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN  
INFORMED BY A JOURNALIST THAT THE SHARP TONE OF OUR  
LONDON DECLARATION WAS DUE TO THE SOVIETS IN EAST

SECRET

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BERLIN HAVING DEMANDED, A SHORT TIME BEFORE, THAT WE  
STOP THE FLAG TOURS. WE MERELY REPLIED THAT HE  
PARTICULAR LANGUAGE OF THE DECLARATION WAS DESIGNED  
TO GIVE A CLEARER PUBLIC RECORD OF OUR POSITION ON  
BERLIN THAN HAD EMERGED IN JANUARY.

2. THERE IS THUS A GROWING DANGER THAT THE STORY WILL

NOT STAY OUT OF THE NEWSPAPERS MUCH LONGER. THE THREE  
MISSIONS HAVE AGREED THAT IF WE ARE ASKED ABOUT IT BY  
REPORTERS, WE WILL SAY " NO COMMENT". ANY CONFIRMATION  
ABOUT OUR FIRM REBUTTAL, AND THIS SHOULD COME FROM  
EITHER BONN OR CAPITALS.  
GEORGE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, BERLIN ACCESS, MILITARY VEHICLES, STATUS OF BERLIN, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USBERL01338  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770177-0004  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 9a4c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2461150  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBILITY OF PRESS SURFACING OF SOVIET COMPLAINT ABOUT FLAG TOURS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GC, US, UK, FR, UR  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9a4c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009